

# Village of Maurice upgrades wastewater treatment system

**M**aurice, a small municipality in Vermillion Parish, has recently upgraded their wastewater treatment system to a state-of-the-art facility serving more than 640 residents of the town.

Located just southwest of Lafayette, Maurice's population has begun to rise as Lafayette's expansion continues to spread into the neighboring towns. With such growth having the potential to put stress on an already taxed wastewater treatment system, Maurice decided to take steps to improve their wastewater treatment system, which had been in need of repair for some time.



*Maurice is using a Biolac System, which is an extended aeration process for waste treatment*

In December 2010, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality began working with Maurice to correct some issues regarding exceedances in the effluent parameters at their existing wastewater treatment plant. In March 2011, through the combined efforts of the municipality and in coordination with DEQ's Municipal Sewage Assistance Program, Maurice announced system upgrades in place with construction underway on the new facility. The Municipal Sewage Assistance Program is administered through DEQ's Office of Environmental Compliance.

Constructed through the assistance of a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and a Louisiana Community Development Block G grant, a new extended aeration treatment system was installed with the purpose of correcting the outdated facility's problems while providing a much better wastewater treatment system for the community. In addition, planners looked toward the future, building the system with specifications that allow for the efficient treatment of twice as much water as the old facility. Maurice also completed a sewer rehabilitation project to address inflow and infiltration issues through funding from the Block G grant.

"Maurice's new wastewater treatment system is a fine example of how a small community can take bold and important steps to effect change in their infrastructure to the benefit of the community as a whole," said Wayne Slater, DEQ Environmental Scientist. "This is a new, state-of-the-art system that not only reflects favorably for the region, it sets a precedent for smaller municipalities across the state."

The facility is currently using the old treatment plant for sludge processing purposes in order to maintain compliance with the department's biosolid regulations.